

Remarks

1. Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action mailed December 15, 2008, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over a combination of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0076177 (Koch) and U.S. Patent No. 6,219, 540 (Besharat). The Examiner indicated claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 to be allowable subject matter.

2. Status of Claims

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 15, and 17 have been cancelled. Further, claims 1, 10, 12, and 18 have amended to recite the invention more particularly. Presently pending in this application are claims 1, 4-6, 10-12, 14, and 18, of which claims 1 and 12 are independent and the remainder are dependent.

3. Response to Claim Rejections

As noted above, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 15 on grounds of obviousness over a combination of Koch and Besharat. Further, the Examiner indicated that claims 9, 10, 17, and 18 were allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 12 have been now amended to substantially incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 17 and 18 (*see* also Applicants' specification at pages 24-28 for additional support of the amendments). Thus, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 12 (and thus also their respective dependants) are now allowable over the cited art. In view of the present amendments, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

4. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of those claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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